

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels  
and Fire Rehabilitation Actions  
Arizona Trail Race  
DOI-BLM-AZ-PDO-2012-002-CX**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: *Hassayampa Field Office (HFO)*

Proposed Action Title/Type: **Foot Race/ Recreation**

Location of Proposed Action: **Black Canyon National Recreation Trail**

Description of Proposed Action: A competitive trail running event consists of a long and trail short course. The long distance course is approximately 13.1 miles and starts from the Table Mesa Trailhead located north of the Table Mesa Road to Black Canyon City and ends at the Rock Spring Café. The short course of approximately 5.2 miles starts at the access road to the Black Canyon City Trailhead loops down to the Agua Fria River and back to Black Canyon City, ending at the Rock Spring Café. Approximately 400 trail runners are expected to participate with 30 employees/volunteers providing support. A shuttle will transport runners to the Table Mesa Trailhead using the Black Canyon City Trailhead as the staging site for both the long and short distance course. Toilets will be provided at Table Mesa Trailhead. Check points and first aid stations will be staged from 7 a.m. to noon. Trash containers will be provided at the start line and finish line. The courses will be swept of runners and litter. All food will be catered. A professional photographer will be present to take still pictures of runners.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: Bradshaw-Harquahala Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: **4/22/2010**

☒ The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): RR-30; RR-31; RR-32; RR-33. Please use the 'find' feature to locate these reference numbers in the on-line version of the Approved resource Management Plan 2010 referenced above to read these decisions in their entirety at: <https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage&currentPageId=10422>; click on [Bradshaw-Harquahala Record of Decision Approved Resource Management Plan and](#) or enter the plan in a search engine.

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

**Explain specific or implied decision(s): Specific decisions include: issuance of recreation permits are at the discretion of the office manager issuing the permit. The decision is based on potential resource impacts, conflicts with other users, health and safety concerns, past**

or present performance with BLM or other agencies, and BLM's ability to timely process the application and effectively administer the permit.

**C: Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 11.9: **Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.**

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 11.9 apply.

I considered: The race at both the long distance and short distance course will start on roads allowing for racers to spread out and establish ranking order prior to running on the trail.

**D: Signature**

**Review:** *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects (see Attachment 1). Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

**Prepared by:** \_\_\_\_\_/S/\_\_\_\_\_

**Mary Skordinsky**  
**Project Lead**

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_/S/\_\_\_\_\_

**Leah Baker**  
**Planning & Environmental Coordinator**

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_/S/\_\_\_\_\_

**D. Rem Hawes**  
**Field Manager**

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:  
Mary Skordinsky, [mskordin@blm.gov](mailto:mskordin@blm.gov), 623-580-5586

**Note:** A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.

BLM Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances<sup>1</sup>  
Attachment 1

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> The Trail has been designed to provide for non-motorized activities.
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> Use will remain on the trail and denuded areas for staging purposes. There are no known unique features along the routes. Trail was rerouted in areas where cultural resources were present. Support vehicles will travel on designated/numbered roads.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> By permitting this activity use will be contained on the trail.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> There are no known potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks associated with the proposed activity using the trail.
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rational:</b> There are no known future actions with potentially significant environmental effects associated with this action.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
<b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> There are no foreseeable cumulatively significant environmental effects associated with this action.
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the		

<sup>1</sup> If an action has any of these impacts, you must conduct NEPA analysis.

National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> According to a site file search, there are sites considered eligible for the register, but though none are within the requested the area requested.
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> This action was mitigated by alerting participants they may encounter desert tortoise as the trail meanders through prime tortoise habitat and how to avoid the tortoise. The tortoise is a BLM sensitive species and is protected by state law. Guidelines for handling the tortoise will be included as a stipulation.
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> The Trail is on land administered by the BLM, or via easement, where all laws or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment is met.
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> This action does not adversely affect low income or minority populations.
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> There are no known sacred sites along the trail or within the Mica Mine Campground or denuded areas.
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Rationale:</b> The race will stay on the Trail, Mica Mine Campground and denuded areas for supports such as first aid. There are no known actions covered in this permit that would propagate weed species.

## Decision

**Project Description:** A competitive trail running event consists of a long and trail short running. The long distance course is approximately 13.1 miles and starts from the Table Mesa Trailhead located north of the Table Mesa Road to Black Canyon City and ends at the Rock Spring Café. The short course of approximately 5.2 miles starts at the access road to the Black Canyon City Trailhead loops down to the Agua Fria River and back to Black Canyon City, ending at the Rock Spring Café. Approximately 400 trail runners are expected to participate with 30 employees/volunteers providing support. A shuttle will transport runners to the Table Mesa Trailhead using the Black Canyon City Trailhead as the staging site for both the long and short distance course. Toilets will be provided at Table Mesa Trailhead. Check points and first aid stations will be staged from 7 a.m. to noon. Trash containers will be provided at the start line and finish line. The courses will be swept of runners and litter. All food will be catered. A professional photographer will be present to take still pictures of runners.

**Decision:** Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, with the following stipulations (if applicable).

*The decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on date this document is posted. Within 30 days of this decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at 21605 N 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized officer.*

*If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b) the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:*

*The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.*

*The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.*

*The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and  
Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.*

*If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the Authorized Officer.*

*A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken to: Field Solicitor, U.S. Department of Interior, 401 West Washington Street, Suite 404, Phoenix, AZ 85003, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.*

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_/S/\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_03/21/2012\_\_

**D. Rem Hawes**

**Field Manager**